



EPA ADMINISTRATOR WHITMAN ANNOUNCES \$21.5 MILLION TO REVITALIZE BLIGHTED COMMUNITIES IN 17 STATES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman announced May 3rd \$21.5 million in Brownfields grants to clean up and revitalize blighted communities in 17 states.

In a ceremony in Oakland County, Michigan, Whitman said, "We are here today to announce the awarding of \$21 million dollars in funds to help clean up Brownfields across America. This money will go to help communities turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets, much like what is going on here at this site.

"Brownfields restoration is a win-win for everyone," Whitman added, "from the children who have new places to play when a Brownfield is turned into a ballfield, to the parents who have new jobs when a Brownfield becomes the site of a new office building or a retail store."

Grants were awarded under EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) program to capitalize state and local programs that in turn provide no- interest or low- interest loans to businesses to carry out cleanup activities at Brownfields properties. Federal capitalization of these loan programs provides necessary resources that enable state and local governments to produce or leverage billions of dollars in other public and private sector funding to revitalize economically depressed communities.

The state governments awarded grants include Alabama (\$1 million), Arkansas (\$1 million), Colorado (\$800,000), Hawaii (\$2 million), Kansas (\$1 million), New Mexico (\$1 million), South Carolina (\$900,000) and Washington state (\$800,000). Local governments awarded grants, in addition to Oakland County, Mich. (\$1million), include: Coralville, Iowa (\$1 million); El Paso, Texas (\$1 million); Kenosha, Wis. (\$1 million); Milwaukee, Wis. (\$1 million); Madera County, Calif. (\$1million); Santa Rosa, Calif. (\$1 million); Monroe, Mich. (\$1 million); Taylor, Mich. (\$1 million); Montgomery County, Pa. (\$1 million); Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commission, Vt. (\$1 million); Springfield, Ohio (\$1 million); and Worcester, Mass. (\$1 million). To date, EPA has awarded 143 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grants to 39 states and the District of Columbia totaling almost \$91 million.

IDEM was awarded a BCRLF grant from EPA in 1997. IDEM currently has up to \$1million available to loan to both public and private entities for removal activities at brownfield sites. For more information on IDEM's BCRLF, go to

www.state.in.us/idem/land/brownfields/funding/bcrl_fund.html

For every dollar of federal money spent on Brownfields cleanup activities, cities and states produce or leverage \$2.48 in private investment. To date, EPA's Brownfields program has leveraged over \$4 billion in public and private investments that have turned abandoned industrial properties into thriving economic centers, useful recreational areas and beneficial open spaces.

For further information about EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund program go to <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>.